



File Code: 2810; 1950
Date: June 2, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The USDA Forest Service has received a 2016 Surface Exploration Work Plan from Millrock Exploration Corporation regarding their Apex El Nido claims located on Chichagof Island. Millrock Exploration owns or has interest in claims within Sections 13 & 22-27, Township 45S, Range 56E, Copper River Meridian. The proposed activities would occur in the SW ¼ of Section 23, located in the Cann Creek Drainage, approximately 3 miles west of the town of Pelican. This notice initiates a 30-day comment period for this action. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. In order to be most useful, your comments should be provided by July 8, 2016, so we can incorporate them into the Decision Memo.

The Tongass National Forest will consider the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This activity falls within a category of actions established by the Chief of the Forest Service, which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. Specifically, this decision may be categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8), Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigation and their incidental support activities. The Mining Law of 1872, as amended, provides the public right to identify and extract locatable mineral resources from public lands open to mineral entry.

All of the activities are located within Chichagof Inventoried Roadless Area #311; however, no trees will be cut or roads constructed throughout the life of the project. The proposed action is located within a Semi-Remote Recreation Land Use Designation (LUD) as identified in the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The proposed activities are consistent with this Forest Plan LUD, as it allows for the development of mineral resources.

Proposed activities include hard rock exploration by helicopter-supported diamond drill core drilling. A single drill will be utilized throughout the life of this project. A maximum of five (5) drill pads will be constructed with up to two (2) drill holes at each pad. Each hole will be drilled to a maximum depth of 1,500 feet. An estimated 1,000 square feet of surface disturbance is expected at each drill pad for a total surface disturbance of 5,000 square feet. Cumulatively, up to approximately 0.1 acres of surface disturbance may occur. No trees will be cut throughout the life of the project; timbers used for drill pad construction will be acquired through a lumber supply company. A helicopter, support personnel, and all field and drill crews will operate from



the exploration project site, which will most likely be in the nearby town of Pelican. The helicopter will be used to transport the drill, fuel, lumber, workers, trash, and all other supplies to and from the site. Workers and trash will be removed from the site on a daily basis. All equipment and materials will be removed when operations are complete. Sites will be rehabilitated to reduce visual impacts and stabilize any potential erosion, and then allowed to naturally regenerate vegetation. All drill sites will be reclaimed concurrently with exploration.

The 2016 Surface Exploration Work Plan and other information, including maps of the drill sites, are available for review at the Hoonah Ranger District office or on the Tongass National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49466>.

Written comments may be sent to:

Edward Gazzetti
Admiralty Island National Monument
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments may also be emailed to comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us or faxed to 907-586-8808 with "2016 Apex El Nido Exploratory Drilling" in the subject line.

We are currently transitioning from postal mailings to electronic mailings (emails) for NEPA projects like this one. You can sign up for future email updates on this project by going to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49466>. Sign up at "Subscribe to Email Updates" under the "Get Connected" tab. More information about this transition is being sent through postal mail and email. Please look for this information in your mail box and please respond to the mailing by the date stated so that we can assure that you continue to receive information on projects of interest to you.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Edward Gazzetti, Minerals Program Hydrogeologist, at (907) 789-6276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Vanormer", written in a cursive style.

CHAD VANORMER
District Ranger